

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1. (Original) A method of booting a user terminal using an operating system stored
2 on the side of a network-connected user, comprising:
3 in booting of said user terminal, transmitting user information that has been
4 selected by a user from OS-boot setting user information stored on a storage medium
5 that is accessed by the user terminal to a server under the control of preboot means
6 started up at said user terminal; and
7 on the basis of the user information transmitted from said user terminal,
8 authenticating said user terminal by said server, transmitting a specified operating
9 system and application to said user terminal, and booting said user terminal in a
10 user-specific environment.
- 1 2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the OS-boot setting user
2 information has been stored on a removable storage medium accessed by said user
3 terminal.
- 1 3. (Original) A network operating system booting method, comprising:
2 (a) a step, performed by a user terminal when power is supplied to said user
3 terminal, of executing a system BIOS that has been stored on a read-only storage
4 device, executing predetermined initialization processing by the system BIOS,
5 subsequently loading BIOS preboot means, which has been stored in said storage
6 device, into a memory of said user terminal and delivering control to said BIOS
7 preboot means;
8 (b) a step, performed by said BIOS preboot means, of acquiring OS booting
9 user information, which has been stored on a removable storage medium, using a
10 removable-storage device driver of said user terminal, and displaying this user
11 information as a boot menu on a display of said user terminal;

12 (c) a step, performed by said BIOS preboot means when the user selects an OS
13 environment from the boot menu displayed on said display, of transmitting user
14 information to a server via a network, said user information corresponding to the OS
15 environment selected by the user and including an operating system, start-up
16 application, user ID and security information;

17 (d) a step, performed by said server that has received the user information
18 transmitted from said user terminal, of retrieving the user information from a user
19 database on which user information has been registered in advance, comparing the
20 user information that has been transmitted from said user terminal with information
21 that has been registered in said user database, and transmitting a specified operating
22 system and application to said user terminal if it is verified that the user possesses the
23 privilege to implement a requested OS environment; and

24 (e) a step, performed by said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal, of
25 storing the operating system and application, which have been transmitted from said
26 server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user terminal, delivering control
27 to said operating system together with an OS boot option, and booting said operating
28 system.

1 4. (Original) A network operating system booting system having a user terminal and
2 a server connected to said user terminal and storing an operating system executed by
3 said user terminal, wherein preboot means is started up in said user terminal at
4 booting thereof;

5 said preboot means having means for transmitting, to said server, information
6 corresponding to an operating system selected by a user from OS-boot setting user
7 information stored on a storage medium that is accessed by said user terminal;

8 said server having means for authenticating the user of said user terminal
9 based upon the user information that has been transmitted from said user terminal, and
10 transmitting a specified operating system and application to said user terminal.

1 5. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein the OS-boot setting user
2 information has been stored on a removable storage medium accessed by said user
3 terminal.

1 6. (Original) In a user terminal, a network operating system booting system for
2 executing a system BIOS in a read-only storage device when power is supplied to said
3 user terminal;

4 said system BIOS performing control to load BIOS preboot means, which has
5 been stored in said storage device, into a memory of said user terminal after
6 initialization processing is executed, and deliver control to said BIOS preboot means;

7 said BIOS preboot means having means for acquiring OS booting user
8 information, which has been stored on a removable storage medium, using a
9 removable-storage device driver of said user terminal;

10 means for extracting settings names from all settings information included in
11 the user information and displaying these settings names as a boot file on a display of
12 said user terminal; and

13 means which, when the user selects an OS environment desired to be booted
14 from the boot menu displayed on said display, is for transmitting an operating system,
15 start-up application, user ID and security information, which correspond to the OS
16 environment selected from the user information by the user, to a server;

17 said server having:

18 a user database in which user information has been registered;

19 means which, when the operating system, start-up application, user ID and
20 security information have been received from said user terminal, is for retrieving
21 information of the user ID from said user database, comparing the user information
22 that has been transmitted from said user terminal with information that has been
23 registered in said user database, and verifying whether the user possesses the privilege
24 to implement a requested OS environment; and

25 means for transmitting an operating system and application, which have been
26 specified at said user terminal, to said user terminal if it has been verified that the user
27 possesses said privilege;

28 said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal having:
29 means for storing the operating system and application, which have been
30 transmitted from said server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user
31 terminal; and
32 means for delivering control to said operating system together with a boot
33 option of said operating system, and booting said operating system.

1 7. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein the user
2 information transmitted from said user terminal includes a user ID and settings
3 information, and said settings information includes a settings name, bootable
4 operating system, application, security information and boot option, which is
5 delivered to the server transmitting the operating system, displayed on a display of
6 said user terminal.

1 8. (Original) A computer readable program product for executing the following
2 processes (a) to (f):

3 wherein when power is supplied to a user terminal, a system BIOS in a
4 read-only storage device thereof is executed;

5 said system BIOS having:

6 (a) a process for performing control to load BIOS preboot means, which has
7 been stored in said storage device, into a memory of said user terminal after
8 initialization processing is executed, and delivering control to said BIOS preboot
9 means;

10 said BIOS preboot means having:

11 (b) a process for acquiring OS booting user information, which has been stored
12 on a removable storage medium, using a removable-storage device driver of said user
13 terminal;

14 (c) a process for extracting settings names from all settings information
15 included in the user information and displaying these settings names as a boot file on
16 a display of said user terminal; and

17 (d) a process which, when the user selects an OS environment desired to be
18 booted from the boot menu displayed on said display, is for transmitting an operating
19 system, start-up application, user ID and security information, which correspond to the
20 OS environment selected from the user information by the user, to a server;

21 said server having a user database in which user information has been
22 registered; when the user information has been received, said server retrieving the user
23 information from said user database, comparing the user information that has been
24 transmitted from said user terminal with information that has been registered in said
25 user database; said server verifying whether the user possesses the privilege to
26 implement a requested OS environment; and said server transmitting an operating
27 system and application, which have been specified at said user terminal, to said user
28 terminal if it has been verified that the user possesses said privilege;

29 said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal having:

30 (e) a process for storing the operating system and application, which have been
31 transmitted from said server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user
32 terminal; and

33 (f) a process for delivering control to said operating system together with a
34 boot option of said operating system, and booting said operating system.

1 9. (Original) A computer readable program product for executing processes (a) and
2 (b) by a computer of a server,

3 wherein when power is supplied to a user terminal, a system BIOS in a
4 read-only storage device thereof is executed;

5 said system BIOS having means for loading BIOS preboot means, which has
6 been stored in said storage device, in a memory of said user terminal after
7 initialization processing, and delivering control to said BIOS preboot means;

8 said BIOS preboot means having:

9 means for acquiring OS booting user information, which has been stored on a
10 removable storage medium, using a removable-storage device driver of said user
11 terminal;

12 means for extracting settings names from all settings information included in
13 the user information and displaying these settings names as a boot file on a display of
14 said user terminal; and

15 means which, when the user selects an OS environment desired to be booted
16 from the boot menu displayed on said display, is for transmitting an operating system,
17 start-up application, user ID and security information, which correspond to the OS
18 environment selected from the user information by the user, to a server;

19 said server having a user database in which user information has been
20 registered;

21 said server having:

22 (a) a process which, when the user information has been received, retrieves the
23 user information from said user database, compares the user information that has been
24 transmitted from said user terminal with information that has been registered in said
25 user database, and verifies whether the user possesses the privilege to implement a
26 requested OS environment; and

27 (b) a process for transmitting an operating system and application, which have
28 been specified at said user terminal, to said user terminal if it has been verified that
29 the user possesses said privilege;

30 said BIOS preboot means of said user terminal having:

31 means for storing the operating system and application, which have been
32 transmitted from said server, as files in a secondary storage device of said user
33 terminal; and

34 means for delivering control to said operating system together with a boot
35 option of said operating system, and booting said operating system.

1 10. (Original) A user terminal network-connected to a server which stores an
2 operating system executed by the user terminal, said user terminal downloading the
3 operating system from said server and booting the operating system, said user terminal
4 comprising:

5 preboot means started up at booting; and

6 means for accessing a storage medium removably inserted into said user
7 terminal;

8 said preboot means having:

9 means for transmitting, to said server, information corresponding to an
10 operating system which a user has selected from OS-boot setting user information that
11 has been recorded on said storage medium; and

12 means which, when said server authenticates the user of said user terminal
13 based upon the user information that has been transmitted from said user terminal and
14 transmits a specified operating system and application to said user terminal, is for
15 storing the operating system and application as files in a secondary storage device of
16 said user terminal, delivering control to said operating system together with a boot
17 option of the set operating system, and booting said operating system.

1 11. (Currently amended) A user terminal network-connected to a server which stores
2 an operating system executed by the user terminal, said user terminal downloading the
3 operating system from said server and booting the operating system, said user terminal
4 comprising:

5 preboot means started up at booting; and

6 means for accessing a storage medium removably inserted into said user
7 terminal;

8 said preboot means having:

9 means for transmitting, to said server, information corresponding to an
10 operating system which a user has selected from OS-boot setting user information that
11 has been recorded on said storage medium; and

12 means which, when said server authenticates the user of said user terminal
13 based upon the user information that has been transmitted from said user terminal and
14 transmits a specified operating system and application to said user terminal, is for
15 storing the operating system and application as files in a secondary storage device of
16 said user terminal, delivering control to said operating system together with a boot
17 option of the set operating system, and booting said operating system, wherein there is

18 A a server comprising:
19 a storage device for storing an operating system and an application started up
20 by a user terminal;
21 a user database in which are previously registered, for every user ID, an
22 operating system bootable by the user terminal, an application capable of being started
23 by the user terminal, and security information;
24 means which, when the user information has been received by said user
25 terminal ~~set forth in claim 10~~, is for retrieving the user information from said user
26 database, comparing the user information that has been transmitted from said user
27 terminal with information that has been registered in said user database, and verifying
28 whether the user possesses the privilege to implement a requested OS environment;
29 and
30 means for transmitting an operating system and application, which have been
31 specified at said user terminal, to said user terminal if it has been verified that the user
32 possesses said privilege.